

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRASIL 07981 151917Z

13
ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 ACDA-07 CIAE-00

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R 151940Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7832
INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMCONSUL RIO DE JANEIRO
AMCONSUL SAO PAULO
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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RIO FOR USDEL IAEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: AORG; IAEA; BR
SUBJECT: PLO PLANS RE IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE

REF: IAEA VIENNA 7597

1. RIO'S JORNAL DO BRASIL ON SEPTEMBER 13 AND 14, AS PART OF GENERAL COVERAGE OF IAEA CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, REPORTED THAT PLO WOULD BE REPRESENTED AS OBSERVER, THOUGH NO LOCAL PRESS REPORTS SO FAR HAVE CLAIMED THAT ARAFAT MIGHT COME PERSONALLY. POLITICAL COLUMN, JB, IN SEPTEMBER 14 JORNAL DO BRASIL CLAIMED PLO WOULD DEFINITELY BE REPRESENTED, ADDING THAT REQUEST FOR PLO OBSERVER STATUS WAS INITIATED BY IRAQ AND "IMMEDIATELY" ACCEPTED BY IAEA. SAME EDITION REPORTS THAT IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL SIGVARD EKLUND, IN RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON POSSIBILITY OF PLO PRESENCE AS OBSERVERS, STATED "CONFERENCE IS MASTER OF ITS OWN DECISIONS."

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PAGE 02 BRASIL 07981 151917Z

2. FOREIGN MINISTER'S CHEFE DO GABINETE (SOUTO MAIOR) ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT IMPEDE EFFORTS OF PLO REPRESENTATIVES TO BE PRESENT FOR IAEA CONFERENCE. HE INDICATED THAT VISAS WOULD PROBABLY BE GRANTED IN EVENT THAT REPRESENTATIVES CAME FROM OUTSIDE OF BRAZIL (HE SPECULATED THAT PLO MIGHT DESIGNATE SOMEONE NOW IN BRAZIL TO ATTEND), THOUGH HE STRESSED THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES WOULD NOT BE GIVEN VISAS "AS OBSERVERS" UNLESS IAEA CONFERENCE ITSELF VOTED TO GRANT THEM OBSERVER STATUS. HE GAVE NO INDICATION THAT ARAFAT'S ATTENDANCE WAS A SERIOUS POSSIBILITY. HE ADDED THAT BRAZIL'S WILLINGNESS TO PERMIT PLO PRESENCE IN THIS CASE IS PERFECTLY CONSISTENT WITH ITS PAST POLICY.

3. COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY CONCLUDE FROM SOUTO MAIOR'S REMARKS THAT VISAS WILL BE GRANTED, IF THEY ALREADY HAVE NOT BEEN -- THE ONLY REMAINING POINT OF UNCERTAINTY BEING THE TYPE OF VISA. SOUTO MAIOR'S CLAIM OF POLICY "CONSISTENCY" ON PLO PRESENCE IS UNCLEAR. WHILE GOB HAS NOT OPPOSED PLO OBSERVER STATUS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF GENERAL NATURE, IT HAS VOTED TO EXCLUDE THEM FROM CONFERENCES DEALING WITH HIGHLY SPECIALIZED SUBJECTS, SUCH AS IN CASE OF BRAZIL'S INITIAL VOTE ON SEATING PLO AT RECENT WORLD EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE, ON GROUNDS THAT SUCH REPRESENTATIVES PRESUMABLY WOULD HAVE LITTLE EXPERIENCE OR EXPERTISE TO MAKE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION. ON THE OTHER HAND, WITH REGARD TO PLO PRESENCE HERE, BRAZILIAN POLICY HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONSISTENT. PLO TRAVELERS ARE ALLOWED TO COME AND GO AND TO MAINTAIN CONTACTS WITH REASONABLE FREEDOM. GOB HAS, HOWEVER, SO FAR DECLINED TO PERMIT ESTABLISHMENT OF FORMAL PLO OFFICE HERE, AND, AS COMPROMISE, HAS AGREED TO DESIGNATION OF PLO REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN BRASILIA AS ATTACHE OF ARAB LEAGUE MISSION, WITH DIPLOMATIC PRIVILEGES. CRIMMINS

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